

REMARKS

Structure of the Invented mount:

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of the present application as not being patentable over Ching-Fang Su's US patent 5,462,782, the Examiner has advised that the Applicant must better clarify the distinction between the structures and compositions of the present application and the invention of SU.

Accordingly, to make clear that the present invention consists of a single piece of soft plastic - in contrast to Su's composite of two layers of plastic, one hard, one soft - the description of the present mount is amended in the appropriate claims, to read :

" ... each mount consisting of a single layer of soft plastic such as PVC ".

This amendment is incorporated in claims 1, 24, 25, 29, 36, 40 and 41.

Softness of the single layer :

The "cling" properties of PVC are well-known to be directly proportional to the softness of the plastic, which is directly proportional to the weight percentage of plasticiser, otherwise called softener, added to the PVC in manufacture. The present application defines "soft" PVC as being adequately soft to confer sufficient cling property for the stated purpose of holding sheet material on glass. PVC with approximately 55% of plasticiser additive will generally be known as soft in the relevant industries and, at this level of plasticiser, the PVC is empirically soft enough to be called soft for this purpose. Such soft PVC is not rigid but retains its ability to be produced as a film.

The softness of the plastic is referred to in claim 11, where the purpose of the plasticiser is now explained and in claim 12, where the known or usual percentage of plasticiser to achieve what the industry would regard as "soft" PVC is noted.

Claims 11 and 12 are amended in connection with this.

Limitation of size :

The Examiner has stated that the expression "...capable of.... only.. ." did not constitute a positive limitation in respect of the size of the invented mount. Accordingly, the affected claims are amended to define more accurately the size of the mount in relation to the sheet object it mounts.

Claims 5, 24 and 26 are amended.

Dimensions :

The dimensions of the mounts of the present application are herein amended slightly, affecting claims 14, 15, 31 and 32.

Conclusion

The applicant hopes that the present submission is procedurally acceptable and respectfully asks that the examiner withdraw his remaining objections to the patentability of the present application over Su.

Should the examiner feel that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the applicant, John MacAlister, on +44 1728 668 204, at any time, notwithstanding the time-zone differences.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John MacAlister', with a horizontal line drawn above it.

John MacAlister

February, 18th, 2005